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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:54pm
Subject: Support for the MS decision

I realize that you're probably getting an enormous amount of spam regarding the settlement with MS. I for one just want to show my support for a lighter sentence. I'm an entrepreneur myself, and I fail to see the justification for a harsher penalty.

Point 1) MS has a monopoly in the operating system market. No argument there.

Point 2) MS did include an internet browser with their operating system. But they never charged for it, they never released it as a separate download. It was an augmentation to the OS, not a bundling.

Point 3) Open sourcing or forcing a stripped down version of Windows offers no substantial benefit to the competitive marketplace. Yahoo currently releases a messenger which is small to download, changes all the settings to adjust to yahoo's sites, and allows yahoo fully competitive offerings. MS has not moved to prevent this or change yahoo's offering in any way. I think this is a prime example of a fully competitive marketplace.

In summary, please don't listen to all the nay sayers. The important point is that with the observation body in place, the settlement as it currently stands will be more than enough.